

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 have been amended and claim 6 has been cancelled. No new matter is believed added.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fisher et al. (U.S. 6,026,479), hereafter "Fisher," in view of Dowling (U.S. 6,128,728) and Trimberger et al. (U.S. 5,844,422), hereafter "Trimberger." This rejection is defective because Fisher, Dowling, and Trimberger, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of claimed invention.

Regarding independent claim 1 (and similarly independent claim 8), Fisher fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, "at least a part of such hardware resource means which are not directly accessible and not included in said predetermined limited subset of said hardware resource means are chained together in a first scan chain means and at least a part of such hardware resources which are not directly accessible and included in said predetermined limited subset of said hardware resource means are chained together in a second scan chain means." Dowling and Trimberger fail to remedy this glaring deficiency of Fisher.

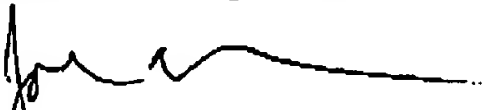
In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the claimed "first scan chain means" corresponds to Fisher's elements 150A-C and the claimed "second scan chain means"

corresponds to Fisher's element 150D. This is incorrect. In particular, as clearly illustrated in Fisher's FIG. 2, elements 150A-C are arranged in parallel and are not chained together in a scan chain as claimed. Similarly, Fisher's element 150D does not form part of a scan chain.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the currently-pending claims are in condition for allowance, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any further discussion of the invention would be helpful, Applicants' representative is available at (518) 449-0044, and earnestly solicits such discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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